

CONFIDENTIAL

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7-6964

12 December 1955

card
Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Nelson:

An officer of this Agency, who has just returned from a European trip, has made a suggestion based on his observations abroad which may be of interest to you.

During his trip, this officer was particularly impressed with the deep and sympathetic interest in the President's health reflected in press, radio, newsreels, and personal discussion with representative elements of local populations. On the basis of these observations, he is convinced that warm and sincere affection and admiration for the President is shared by the great majority of the peoples of other countries, regardless of locale or political affiliations.

In view of this, he suggests that the President in his Christmas message might include a note of appreciation addressed particularly to the peoples in other countries, as well as to those in the United States, for their interest in his recovery. This might be tied in with some appropriate reference to the fact that he feels that this concern is not a personal matter, but because he knows they share with him the overwhelming desire to help preserve a world at peace, which is the symbol of the Christmas Season.

It seems to us here that these suggestions have real merit and I thought you might wish to give them consideration.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD:ha (Rewritten)
Addressee - Orig & 1 cc
DCI - 1 cc

ER - 1 cc Reading - 1 cc Chief, SR - 1 cc

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White House



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

*message
might*

Dear Nelson:

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During his trip, this officer was particularly impressed with the deep and sympathetic interest in the President's health reflected in press, radio, newsreels, and personal discussion with representative elements of local populations. On the basis of these observations, he is convinced that warm and sincere affection and admiration for the President is shared by the great majority of ~~Europeans~~, regardless of locale or political affiliation.

In view of this, he suggests that the President ~~might~~, ^{*in his*} as the Christmas season draws near, broadcast a personal message to foreign audiences which, among other things, would include expressions of gratitude for their interest in his recovery and holiday greetings appropriate both to the occasion and to the President's very substantial personal stature as a symbol of peace and goodwill. ~~Our officer further suggests that the impact of such a message would be greatly enhanced if it contained suitable brief paragraphs in each of several key foreign languages, such as French, German, Russian, and perhaps one or two Middle Eastern or Oriental tongues.~~

It appears to us that these suggestions have great merit, not only for the reasons mentioned above, but because they might also provide useful reassurance to many foreign listeners that the President is again healthy and active, thus easing their concern over the possible effects on U.S. foreign policy of his continued incapacity.

Sincerely,

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Special Assistant
The White House

*To the Peoples in
Government as well
in the USA.*